

BOOK REVIEWS : BOEKBESPREKINGS

SURGERY OF THE SYMPATHETIC NERVOUS SYSTEM

Surgery of the Sympathetic Nervous System. 3rd Edition.
By Sir James Paterson Ross, K.C.V.O., LL.D., M.S., F.R.C.S.,
F.R.A.C.S., F.A.C.S. Pp. xii+170. Illustrated. 35s. net.
London: Baillière, Tindall and Cox Ltd. 1958.

This book, which has been rewritten after 20 years, is still an account of the experience of sympathectomy in the Surgical Professorial Unit at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London, and does not cover the field exhaustively. After a brief description of the anatomy and physiology of the sympathetic nervous system, the author discusses peripheral vascular disorders, stressing the

effects of treatment and overemphasizing the use of skin-temperature recordings which are frequently illustrated in the book. The clinical grading of Raynaud's disease is set out well and most operations on the sympathetic nervous system are described here and in the chapter on arterial hypertension. The problem of arterial hypertension is carefully considered with particular reference to the results according to the renal and fundal gradings which are defined. Experiences with sympathectomy for hyperhidrosis, causalgia and visceral pain are recorded with descriptions of these conditions.

The assessment of sympathectomy in this short book primarily represents the author's opinions and should be an addition to other more detailed discussions of the subject. P.C.K.